



1415 W Melody Ln
Building C
Bisbee, Arizona 85603
<http://cochiselibrary.org>
520-432-8930

Cochise County Library District

"Public programs...personal service"

Minutes of the **April 19, 2023** meeting of
The Cochise County Library District Citizen Liaison Council

The meeting came to order at 1:02 pm, at Douglas Public Library.

Members and guests present: Cinda Combs (Bisbee's Copper Queen Library); Stephanie Fulton (Huachuca City Library); Diane Hildebrandt (Huachuca City Library); Karly Scarbrough (Sierra Vista Public Library); Margaret White (Douglas Public Library); Amadee Ricketts (Cochise County Library District)

Absent: Benson Public Library, Tombstone City Library, Willcox's Elsie S. Hogan Community Library (CLC Chair Abe Villarreal had to miss the meeting as well, so Amadee Ricketts from the Library District filled in as facilitator.)

Amadee Ricketts asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on October 19, 2022. Diane Hildebrandt made the motion and Karly Scarbrough seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Member reports:

Sierra Vista Public Library: Karly Scarbrough shared an update from Sierra Vista.

Karly noted that the City of Sierra Vista has recently combined several commissions, including the Library Commission, into the new Arts, Humanities & Cultural Diversity Commission. Karly has agreed to remain on the commission to ensure library representation and will continue to participate in the CLC.

Karly reported that SVPL is gearing up for the "All Together Now" summer reading program, but summer reading in Sierra Vista will also have a significant dinosaur focus because an exciting dinosaur exhibit ("Jurassic Wonders") is coming to the Henry F. Hauser Museum.

The library recently introduced a Monday storytime at the mall, which has been successful but will take a hiatus over the summer. Story Splash Time at The Cove (aquatic center) has also been a hit, and will continue.

The job posting for a children's librarian (to work with, not replace, Erica Merritt) did not draw many applicants, so the library will adjust the posting and seek a systems librarian who can take on some programming responsibilities.

The Friends of the Library provided funds to replace AWE early learning computers in the children's library.

The new book kiosk/vending machine in the mall has been well received over its first few months, with 120 items checked out in March. The wrap on the machine will be replaced with something more eye-catching soon. (The existing wrap is nice but white, so it blends in with the walls.)

Sierra Vista will be adding Hoopla (a streaming video and audio platform that includes ebooks, audiobooks, and more) for SVPL patrons* soon.

Sierra Vista launched its Culture Pass program in March**.

** There was a brief discussion about what kinds of resources are limited to patrons of specific libraries. Hotspots are an example of physical items with restricted circulation, but there are some digital resources in this category including Kanopy (funded by the Friends of the Copper Queen for Bisbee patrons) and online access to the NYT (for Douglas patrons).*

*** Margaret White from Douglas asked about whether SVPL offers the same assortment of passes as other Cochise County Libraries. Amadee from the Library District said yes, though in a few cases SV has additional rack cards for far-away attractions. During this conversation, Margaret mentioned that Douglas had never received rack cards for the Amerind Museum. The Library District will supply them ASAP.*

Douglas Public Library: Margaret White shared an update from Douglas.

DPL is excited to partner with the Arizona Science Center to offer NASA Astro Camp in Douglas, June 26-30. The program will be open to kids in grades 3-6, and will run from 9 am to 3 pm. This builds on DPL's previous NASA @ Your Library programming, and will be free for participants.

The library is circulating blood pressure monitors in partnership with the American Heart Association, and offering cardiac health programs.

A \$5,000 Rural Health grant has made it possible for the library to offer healthy snacks after school. The snack bags have been very popular!

The library is also offering Recipes for Success / Healthy Eating @ Your Library events, using the mobile kitchen awarded through a previous grant program. All these food-related programs, and the Cooking Matters classes offered with UA Cooperative Extension, tie in with the ongoing Healthy Douglas initiative.

Planning for summer reading is well underway, and this year's program is shaping up to be great (with thanks to staff member Diana Manquero).

Douglas has submitted three LSTA grant proposals:

- Hotspot lending continuation
- VR headsets and software (with a focus on career development – which may offer a partnership opportunity with Cochise College)
- Professional Development Day (focused on conflict resolution, and open to staff from other libraries)

Fingers crossed that all three proposals are funded; notifications will go out in early May.

The Storywalk in the park has been very successful. Douglas students are creating artwork about their vision for Douglas to be featured in the Storywalk panels ahead of Douglas Days.

Two assistant positions are open at the library, one in circulation and the other in the computer lab.

Finally, the library is busy weeding and updating collections, starting with juvenile fiction and nonfiction.

Huachuca City Library: Diane Hildebrandt (from the Friends of HCPL) and Stephanie Fulton (Library & Community Services) shared news from Huachuca City.

(Diane also requested more children's books for the Free Book Box the Friends maintain in Whetstone; Amadee will send some from the District.)

Diane started with an update from the Friends of the Library.

Diane reported that the Friends planned to paint their logo on the conex (shipping container) they use for book sales. They got it marked in but it faded by the time they were ready to move ahead. Maybe they will just add their name in the meantime. They have also added feather flags to increase visibility, and a couple of Friends members have stepped up promotions online, which seems to be helping – book sales have picked up.

A Friends member has also been updating the display case inside the library frequently, and the Friends have seen an increase in donations.

Planning is underway for the annual Christmas in July gift basket raffle. There are six baskets, and tickets are available at \$1 per ticket or six for \$5. They are selling them at CAL Ranch in Sierra Vista. Last year's auction brought in about \$1500!

The Friends are already planning for the big Polar Express celebration, which has become a tradition in the town.

The Friends are still working to draw more active members, but have gained associate members and student memberships (the latter in partnership with the schools).

Stephanie shared an update from the library and the town.

Steph reported that she has just passed her two-year anniversary with Huachuca City, and that she especially appreciates the Friends.

HC has applied for two LSTA grants this year:

- Hotspots continuation
- Storywalk grant for Leffingwell Park

The city has made / is making significant improvements to the park including a new walking path and new playground equipment.

In the future, Stephanie hopes to add a Storywalk in Hunt Park, and apply for a Legacy Foundation grant to add an outdoor water bottle filling station in Huachuca City.

Stephanie also oversees the Senior Center, and programs there include Spotlight on Speakers, Game Nights, Social Hours, and a regular Sewing Social, all run by volunteers. The city offers community meals there on holidays and special occasions, including a recent Spring Fling meal.

Stephanie's position includes managing the town pool and the annual Summer Splash program for kids. Planning is underway, but there have been last-minute complications related to meals.

Also this summer, the library will have a screen, projector, and movie license.

The library is adding memory kits and expanding the Launchpad collection to include tablets for teens and adults.

The library is weeding the kids' room and updating collections. They are making good progress, but the process will take several years due to budget and staffing constraints. Stephanie also hopes to work with an art class from Tombstone Unified School District to brighten up the kids' computer area at the library.

The library still has an active partnership with the community garden, and has had success working with the Borderlands Restoration Network on their own garden area. (Douglas has also

worked with Borderlands on their native plant courtyard, and Margaret highly recommends them.)

The Young Adult Summit was great, and Stephanie will also be attending the Arizona State Library Leadership Institute next week.

People in Huachuca City are excited that fiber is finally coming to town with Cox as the vendor.

The library is implementing a current (\$4000) LSTA grant to extend library services to the community center in lower Huachuca City; they hope to start offering services on Wednesday mornings in May, to correspond with food distribution at a nearby church.

Stephanie is working on a proposal to eliminate overdue fines for all patrons. Youth materials are already fine-free in Huachuca City, so she is hopeful that they will be able to move ahead.

Things are very hectic at the library and in the town, but families really appreciate their services and that makes it all worthwhile.

Bisbee's Copper Queen Library: Cinda Combs shared news and highlights from Bisbee.

The Copper Queen Library has been very busy and has lots of great programs coming up. Cinda brought several flyers to share (attached), along with quarterly statistics for January- March 2023.

Programs include:

- Device Advice (two Mondays per month)
- A Plant-a-Tree Arbor Day Program at the Farmers Market on April 29
- Several poetry events during April (Poetry Month), including workshops, a celebration/reading in honor of Richard Shelton, and Out Loud & Off the Page, a Freewrite celebration and open mic

The Copper Queen also offers a growing Library of Things, including the Seed Library, a tool lending library, hotspots, Culture Passes, Pretend & Play kits, wildlife cameras, and more.

The library is excited about partnerships in the community, and especially the ongoing partnership with the Bisbee Science Lab. Regular Pie & Sky astronomy events at the Science Lab are offered in conjunction with open house nights at the San Jose Annex, and both programs benefit.

The library is midway through a six-month fine-free trial period. Library management will report back to City Council in July and hope for approval to make the change permanent in Bisbee. (Like Huachuca City, the Copper Queen has already eliminated overdue fines for youth materials.)

The summer reading program will be great again this year, and it has been exciting to see library programs bounce back from COVID.

There was some general discussion about book banning and censorship, and Amadee from the Library District plans to send out a resource list to the group.

Director's Report:

Amadee Ricketts offered a brief update from the Library District, including statistics from the 2022 and highlights from the first quarter of 2023 (attached).

Call to the public: No members of the public attended.

For the good of the order: No one in attendance had topics to add.

The next official meeting date will be Wednesday, October 18, 2023. Huachuca City was proposed as a possible location, and the location will be finalized and shared at least one month ahead of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm. After adjournment, attendees enjoyed a tour of the Douglas library.

Respectfully submitted,

Amadee Ricketts

CQ LIBRARY STATS

JANUARY—MARCH 2023

PRINT CHECKOUTS

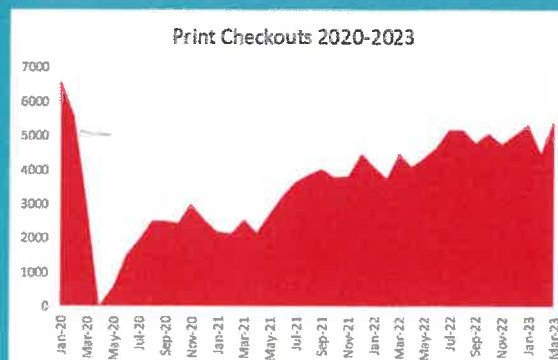
ADULT BOOKS: 4,247

KID BOOKS: 1,277

AUDIO CDs: 711

DVDs: 5,883

CQL ANNEX: 1,914



CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

JUVENILE LIBRARY :

FICTION : 231

GRAPHIC NOVELS : 231

NONFICTION : 158

YOUNG ADULT : 99

PRESCHOOL LIBRARY :

BOARD BOOKS : 93

EARLY READERS : 104

EASY BOOKS : 285

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS : 311

CHILDREN VISITS : 1,547

HOLDS : 1,475

INTERLIBRARY LOANS

LENT : 2,093 | BORROWED : 1,396

ITEMS ADDED : 444

BOOKS : 142

KIDS BOOKS : 93

MUSIC CDs : 40

DVDs : 137



**USERS ADDED
124**

ADULT : 110

KIDS : 14



PROGRAM ATTENDEES:

YouTube Channel : 195 views

Program Attendance : 619

Outreach : 338

Take & Make Kits : 550

Kanopy Video Streams : 900

LIBRARY OF THINGS:

Internet Hotspots : 197

Sports Equipment : 30

Seeds : 285

Tools : 10

COPPER QUEEN LIBRARY & THE BISBEE BLOOMERS PLANT-A-TREE ARBOR DAY PROGRAM

Saturday, April 29, 2023
at the Bisbee Saturday Market in Vista Park

The Copper Queen Library and the Bisbee Bloomers are teaming up to celebrate National Arbor Day and Earth Day by providing free locally-grown Desert Willow trees for you to plant in your yard!

You can pick up your free tree on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at the Bloomers/CQ Library Table at the Bisbee Saturday Market in Vista Park, while supplies last!

Native to the Southwest, the Desert Willow grows rapidly when regularly watered, but also tolerates long periods without water making it a good low-maintenance plant. And, its beautiful flowers add to its appeal. The flowers are usually whitish with a tinge of purple, but cultivars have been selected with colors ranging from white to deep purple.



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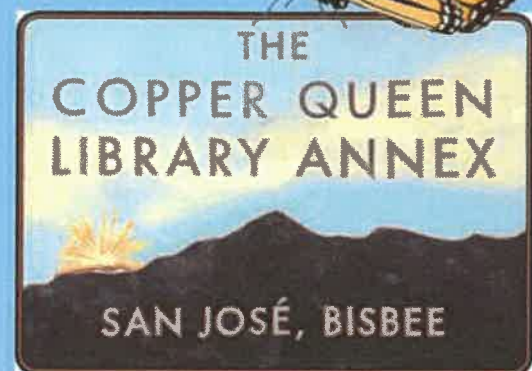
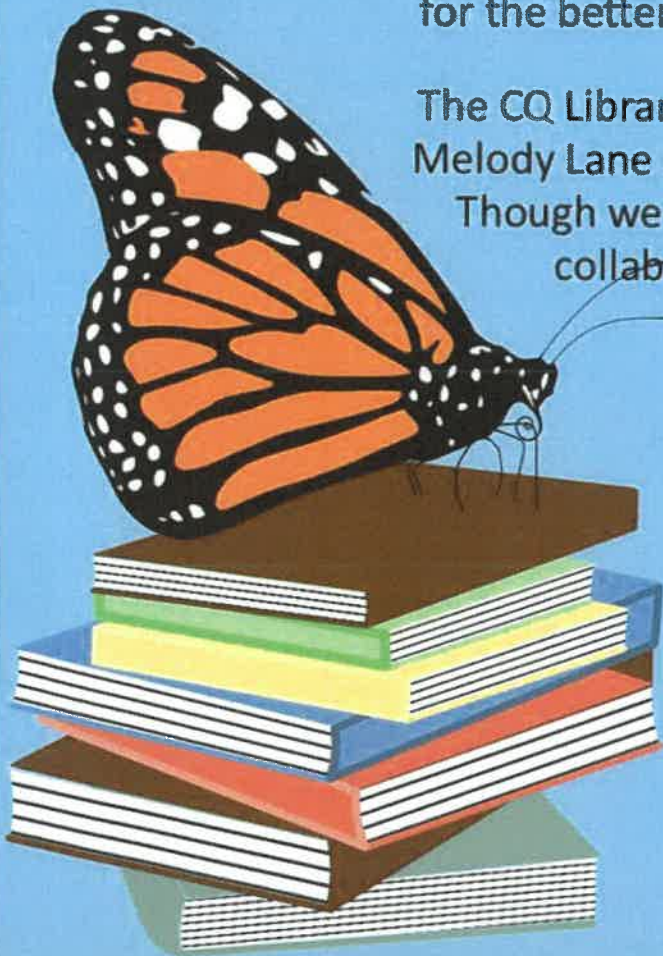
COPPER QUEEN LIBRARY & THE BISBEE SCIENCE LAB



**Present ... juvenile library resources to
SUPPORT bisbee Science Lab Programs**

Thanks to the support of the Friends of the Copper Queen Library, the CQ Library Annex has a brand new collection of science books that highlight the programs being offered by the Bisbee Science Lab, a non-profit organization whose mission is to foster the exploration, teaching, and practice of science for the development of scientific literacy by the public and the encouragement of the scientific inquiries needed for the betterment of our lives.

The CQ Library and BSL are both located at 519 W Melody Lane in the BUSD Administration Building. Though we are separate organizations, we work collaboratively to offer programs, services, and resources to patrons of all ages.



**COPPER QUEEN LIBRARY ANNEX | 519 W MELODY LANE
520-432-5381, EXT. 1011 | COPPERQUEENLIBRARY.COM**

COPPER QUEEN LIBRARY POETRY

APRIL IS POETRY MONTH!

APRIL 11, 2023 | KEN LAMBERTON

4:30 PM CLASSIC DICK SHELTON POETRY WORKSHOP

6:15 PM RICHARD SHELTON CELEBRATION READING

APRIL 18, 2023 | TINA QUINN DURHAM

4:30 PM | THE POETICS OF CHANGE POETRY WORKSHOP

6:15 PM | POETRY READING

APRIL 21, 2023 | OUT LOUD & OFF THE PAGE

3—4:30 PM | FREEWRITE CELEBRATION & OPEN MIC!

APRIL 25, 2023 | LOGAN PHILLIPS

4:45 PM | LUSH DESERT POETRY WORKSHOP

6:30 PM | POETRY READING

PRE-REGISTER FOR WORKSHOPS | SPACE IS LIMITED

CQL ANNEX: APRIL 7, 1 PM | DAVID NEUFELD DECONSTRUCTED BOOKS

APRIL 24, 2023, 5 PM | POETRY CRITIQUE

ALL MONTH: TYPEWRITER POETRY AT THE CQL



A COPPER QUEEN LIBRARY PROGRAM

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COPPER QUEEN LIBRARY • ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE

COPPER QUEEN LIBRARY OF THINGS

The Copper Queen Library's Library of Things is a collection of useful things for your home, projects and adventures that you can check out for FREE with your Copper Queen Library card. Need something for a one-time project or want to try before you buy? Explore the collection and discover your next new Thing to borrow!



The Copper Queen Seed Library allows patrons to “check out” vegetable, flower and herb seeds to plant in their home gardens. The goal of the seed library is to form and encourage a learning community centered around the saving and sharing of seeds in our unique desert climate. Patrons are encouraged to harvest and return seeds from their healthiest plants to ensure the sustainability of the project.

Our Tool Library offers free checkout of home and garden tools and more with your CQL Card. This program eliminates cost-related barriers to home improvements and encourages community sharing. The Tool Library is located at the CQ Library Annex at 519 W Melody Lane. A Tool Lending Policy must be reviewed and signed by the patron to use the Tool Library.

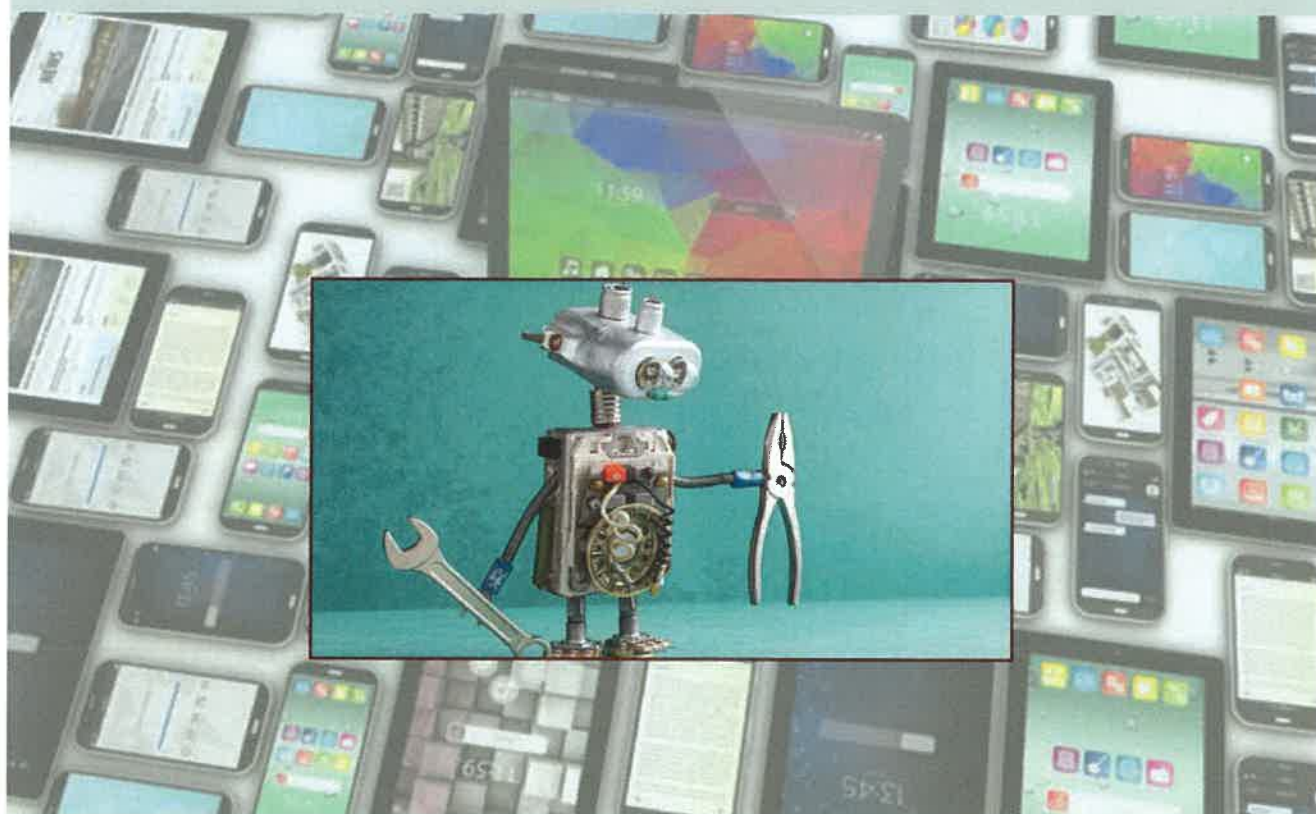


Our Mobile Internet Hotspot Program provides patrons in our community with high-speed internet access at home or on the road. Patrons will be able to take advantage of our Wi-Fi hotspot lending program with a Copper Queen Library card that is in good standing. A Hotspot Lending Policy must be reviewed and signed by the patron before a hotspot can be checked out. Checkouts are for three (3) weeks.

COPPER QUEEN LIBRARY & CQ LIBRARY ANNEX
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COPPER QUEEN LIBRARY TECH PROGRAM

DEVICE ADVICE First Mondays, 5–6:30 PM COMPUTER LITERACY Second Mondays, 5–6:30 pm



AT THE COPPER QUEEN LIBRARY, 6 MAIN ST.

Need help with your technology device? Device Advice will be available on the First Monday of each month, to help patrons become more familiar with their own devices. Bring in your laptop, tablet, or smartphone, along with your questions. On the Second Mondays, Computer Literacy will explore desktop and internet functions. Please email Alison Williams @ awilliams@bisbeeaz.gov with specific questions.



A COPPER QUEEN LIBRARY PROGRAM

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COPPER QUEEN LIBRARY • ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE

GOT LIBRARY FINES? NOT ANYMORE!



FREE TO READ!

In an effort to increase equity of access within our community, and with the support of the Bisbee City Council, the Copper Queen Library has eliminated overdue fines on CQL materials for six months and has cleared the accounts of all CQL patrons who owe money for overdue materials.

During this six month trial period, we are asking any and all CQL patrons who have been unable to use the library due to outstanding fines to check us out once again! And, if you have been holding on to overdue library materials for fear of having to pay fines, please return them immediately and begin using our services again.

It is the mission of the library to provide equal access to information, services, and opportunities that empower, enrich, and enhance the quality of life for all. We feel that fines are a barrier to that access and that eliminating that barrier opens doors to all in our community to utilize the resources that we offer.

After the six months, library staff will report to the Bisbee City Council to show how removing fines has both increased library usage and encouraged patrons who stopped using the library due to overdue fines to return and start using our services again. If we can show community support for this endeavor, we may be able to eliminate fines completely and forever.

And, remember, the CQL is not just for checking out books & DVDs! We also check out seeds, tools, internet hotspots, sports equipment, preschool play kits and so much more — all free and without fear of penalty with your Copper Queen Library card.



Please note that there are still the normal due dates for library materials, and accounts with overdue materials will still be blocked until the materials are either returned or renewed. However, when overdue items are returned, there will be no monetary penalty. Also, patrons are still responsible for replacing or paying for lost and damaged library materials.

COPPER QUEEN LIBRARY & CQ LIBRARY ANNEX
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Library District Updates for the Citizen Liaison Council, April 2023

The last several months have been busy and challenging. The Library District welcomed new branch managers in Bowie and Elfrida and weathered a long period with very minimal staffing at the District offices in Bisbee.

Looking back at 2022, it was good to see circulation and other library services bouncing back from COVID lows:

| | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Countywide physical circulation | 456,371 | 352,204 | 267,204 | 602,284 |
| Countywide digital circulation | 80,061 | 68,729 | 62,823 | 38,210 |
| Computer and wi-fi sessions across rural branches | 24,644 | 18,954 | 23,695 | 27,032 |
| | | | | |

Digital circulation (of ebooks and digital audiobooks) stands out because it has more than doubled since 2019. The Library District has worked to increase selection and reduce wait times each year. Sierra Vista Public Library has made significant contributions to the digital collections, and Benson, Tombstone, and other libraries also contribute to the collections.

Circulation of traditional materials is still below pre-COVID levels but growing steadily, rising 32% in 2021 and nearly 30% in 2022.

In 2023, the Library District has implemented the Culture Pass program at most libraries countywide (Sierra Vista is offering the program under a separate agreement with Act One, the nonprofit that administers that program).



With support from the Friends of the Library District, staff were able to replace two Free Book Boxes in rural locations in March. The Friends have also provided funds to offer free books for summer reading participants again this year. Thanks, Friends!

In the coming months, the Library District will continue strengthening branch services and undertake at least one local history digitization project to contribute to the Arizona Memory Project.

Respectfully submitted, Amadee Ricketts